

# THE BULLETIN



## Overseas Press Club of America

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: OPC RECOMMENDS TRUMAN SEVER ALL RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA :  
: TO SECURE RELEASE OF WILLIAM OATIS, IMPRISONED AP CORRESPONDENT :  
:

Press Freedom Committee Scores Protests as "To No Avail"  
In Dealing with Communist Satellite Government;  
Endorses Six-Point Action "Without Delay"

Condemning the recent espionage trial and sentencing by Czechoslovakia of AP Correspondent William N. Oatis as setting "A precedent which endangers the safety and life of every American correspondent abroad", the Overseas Press Club late last week urged President Truman to adopt a six-point program of action to secure Oatis' release.

The recommendations were contained in a letter addressed to the White House by Chairman BRUNO SHAW of the Freedom of Press and Information Committee, following approval of the suggestions by the Club's Board of Governors.

"We have awaited until now the results of our Government's formal diplomatic protest", the letter stated. "Now that the State Department has announced that that protest was rejected by the Czechoslovak Government, the record shows that such protests have been to no avail. Recent history hardly suggests that future protest alone will be effective with a Communist satellite government".

Terming the Oatis trial as "a travesty on justice", SHAW observed that "danger will grow proportionately unless our Government takes concrete action to obtain the deliverance of Mr. Oatis from his unjustified imprisonment."

The Club, therefore, urged the United States Government take "strong action", proposing six possible consecutive steps:

1. Severing diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia.
  2. Breaking off trade relations with Czechoslovakia (partially accomplished by the U.S. Government prior to receipt of the Club's letter).
- (continued on Page 2)

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3. Sealing off the West German-Czechoslovak border road and railway traffic.
4. An absolute ban against entry into the United States of all persons of Czechoslovak nationality.
5. Cancellation of visas of all Czechoslovak persons now in the United States under the auspices or permission of the present Czechoslovak Government, and their immediate deportation from the country.
6. Freezing of all Czechoslovak assets of every kind in the United States.

Drafting of the recommendations was preceded by conferences of the Freedom of Press and Information Committee, consultation with Associated Press executives and perusal of official documents bearing on the case and, finally, discussion with President JOHN DALY and other Club officers. SHAW emphasized that the Club's seemingly belated action was caused by concern for delicate State Department negotiations and by the necessity for thorough study of all facts in the case.

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

ABC commentator PAULINE FREDERICK honored with the Gold Key of the City of Birmingham, Ala., awarded her by the Chamber of Commerce during a speaking engagement there...Control and operation of Overseas News Agency and its feature syndicate, Press Features, Inc., recently was transferred to LANDRUM BOLLING, ONA editor, and general manager H. R. Wishengrad. Under the new management, ONA and Press Features will operate as separate agencies from the same headquarters; BOLLING will serve as ONA president and editor...Another change-of-hands; RALPH NICHOLSON and his family have sold their interest in the Tampa Daily Times; last week NICHOLSON announced he had acquired an interest in the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer of which he is now editor and publisher...

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 : The Placement Committee, announcing plans to operate at peak efficiency this :  
 : fall, asks Members to help update its file of resumes. Co-Chairman DAVID D. :  
 : ZINGG suggests that Members interested in new employment forward resumes to :  
 : him at once, even though old resumes may still be on file. All such material :  
 : will be treated in strictest confidence. Address resumes to ZINGG at the :  
 : United Fruit Company, Pier 3, North River, New York, N. Y. ....

LOST-AND-FOUND-MEMBERS DEPARTMENT: According to ARTHUR FLETCHER, "lost" ARTHUR SWEETSER is director of the United Nations Information Center in Washington...And DIXON DONNELLY is reported by the UP's HOWARD C. ALEXANDER to be working near him in Buenos Aires for Vision magazine...From Boston comes word that KATHLEEN CANNELL has been working on a novel, free-lancing, contributing to the Christian Science Monitor and doing ballet criticism for that newspaper for the last year or so. Also did publicity for the Boston Dance Theater, and recently finished a publicity chore for Boston's first Sidewalk Art Show, which was tied up with July 14 doings and the 2000th birthday of Paris. Reports 50,000 attended the show first of the two days it was open...WINTHROP FANNING resigned from the Stars & Stripes in April and is now on the copy desk of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette...(Thanks to all who heeded our plea for news of Members we'd lost track of recently)....

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## NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

ACTIVE: Julien H. Bryan, executive director, International Film Foundation. Russia, July 1930 to February 1947; Poland, 1939, for the Chicago Daily News; Poland, 1948 to 1950, South America, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, for March of Time and free-lance. Proposed by LOUIS P. LOCHNER; seconded by RICHARD DE ROCHEMONT.

Arnold C. Brackman, free-lance writer. Japan, 1946 to 1947; Hong Kong, 1947 to 1950; Indonesia, 1948; Malaya, all for the United Press. Proposed by ADRIENNE MOORE DOUGLASS; seconded by SANFORD GRIFFITH.

Douglas Edwards, CBS radio and television reporter. United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, March 1945 to May 1946. Proposed by JOHN DALY; seconded by SANFORD GRIFFITH.

Victor Kendrick, United Press. Hong Kong, China, December 1945 to February 1946; Hong Kong, February 1946 to August 1951, all for United Press. Proposed by EDWARD HUNTER; seconded by ROBERT NEVILLE.

Zygmunt Nagorski, Jr., editor, Free European Press Service, Inc. Germany, May to August, 1945, for the Polish Press Agency, Edinburgh. Proposed by PAUL VAJDA; seconded by N. F. ALLMAN.

Stanley Rich, Associated Press. India, September to December, 1945; Thailand, February to March, 1946; Philippines, March to June, 1946; Shanghai, June 1946 to March 1948; Korea, March 1948; as United Press correspondent; Hong Kong, since January 1950, as AP correspondent. Proposed by EDWARD HUNTER; seconded by ROBERT NEVILLE.

Gideon Seymour, vice-president and executive editor, the Minneapolis Star & Tribune. Argentina, June 1931 to May 1934, as AP chief of bureau; South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, as roving AP correspondent; England, May 1936 to November 1937, as managing director, Associated Press of Great Britain, Proposed by LOUIS P. LOCHNER; seconded by N. F. ALLMAN.

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RADIO REPORTER-SPY "RESIGNS" DUAL ROLE  
FOLLOWING PROTEST BY OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB

... "Bob Barclay, American Agent",  
Seeks New ABC Serial Job...

\* \* \*

Acting on complaints from several Members, Chairman BRUNO SHAW and his Freedom of Press and Information Committee sat down one night recently to hear a half-hour American Broadcasting System radio serial billed as "Bob Barclay, American Agent". Result was the setting in motion of plans to modify the leading character's ambiguous role.

"Bob Barclay", the Committee learned, was a dashing foreign correspondent who doubles as a spy with the knowledge and consent of his wire service. So similar were "Bob Barclay's" fictitious activities to those for which William N. Oatis, AP correspondent, was illegally jailed in Czechoslovakia that the Committee protested. In a letter to ABC President Robert E. Kintner, SHAW scored the drama as "damaging to the reputations of all foreign correspondents... This is a slander and libel on our profession...and, very importantly, at this time, it is likely to do enormous harm to William Oatis, who is now in jail in Czechoslovakia on the kind of flimsy and untrue Communist charges to which your radio serial lends credence."

The Committee suggested that "Bob Barclay" be divorced from his dual role as correspondent-spy. According to Newsweek, which spread the story through three columns in its August 6 issue, Kintner shrugged off the complaint. And the producer, George Trendle, to whom the Committee had also written, pooh-poohed, "They're too serious about themselves...Just because of one isolated case in Czechoslovakia, I think this (protest) is rather foolish."

By this week, however, Trendle had changed his mind. "We shall, of course, see that Bob Barclay resigns his present newspaper connections," he promised in a letter to the Club, "and takes on other work." Thus, "Bob Barclay, American Agent" will no longer be portrayed as a U.S. news syndicate correspondent who uses his press status to mask fictional undercover work as a spy.

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\* TOKYO DATELINE: -- (Special to The Bulletin) -- Robert P.  
\* Martin, CBS correspondent, together with Mrs. Martin, departed  
\* THE OVERSEAS TICKER \* July 24 for the U.S. aboard the "President Cleveland". The  
\* Martins, who entertained at a farewell cocktail party July 23  
\* at the Tokyo Correspondents Club, will stop in New York en route  
\*\*\*\*\* to Cambridge, Mass., where Bob will study at Harvard under the auspices of the Nieman Foundation. After a year at Harvard, the Martins plan to return to Japan...Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Fisher of Reader's Digest, were hosts (according to Tokyo Dateline's society writer, HAZEL SHORE) at a dinner party recently to honor ROBERT STROTHER, new-arrived here on a 30-day special assignment for the Digest....Another Martin, this one named Harold, of the Satevepost staff here, went stateside a few days ago....

William L. Worden arrived to replace Martin for the Post.....Other newcomers include C.E. L. Wickresmesinghe of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon; Basil Teslenko, Jacques Grosbois and Max Olivier, of Argenoe France-Presse; Bruce Thomas for the Compton Newspapers; Erik Hurum for the Norwegian Press; and Fred Braitsch for Leatherneck magazine....Alfred W. (Red) Humphreys of Los Angeles TV departed for the U.S. this week...Prayoon Darakorn of the Thamatipat Daily of Bangkok died in the Tokyo Army hospital of a cerebral hemorrhage on July 13. -- (JACOBUS TenBERGE).

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VIENNA DATELINE: -- (Special to The Bulletin)-- The American Press Club villa in Vienna closed its doors Aug. 1; too few correspondents wanted to staythere after civilian hotels opened up and the local press and diplomatic colony used the comfortable bar and excellent dining room too seldom. Despite a membership drive a few months ago, deficits increased faster than income. This leaves Vienna without a press center...

Seymour Freidlin of the New York Post moves his family and headquarters here from expensive Paris....John MacCormac (New York Times) vacationing at his summer place at Attersee.. ALEXANDER KENDRICK of CBS recently back from Yugoslavia and planning another trip there in August with Si Bourgin of Time-Life....Art Buchwald of the Paris New York Herald Tribune recently spent a week here covering Vienna's night and food life with several OPCers as guides.. James Quigley filling the Stars & Stripes slot here while Ernie Reed vacations stateside... Russell Jones of UP, recently of Prague (where he abandoned all his possessions) replaces Wellington Long...Add pinch-hitters for Ernie Reed: JOSEF ISRAELS, who holds down Reed's American Broadcasting Company post, with concurrence from NBC, which ISRAELS has represented in Vienna for two years...

Recent fifth price-wage adjustment failed to produce rioting as promised by local Commies who stirred up plenty of trouble in a similar situation last October...The State Departments' information program in Vienna is growing phenomenally. Has already outgrown its building, requiring extra space in several other parts of town...Lots of visiting press at the Salzburg Festival, including Life's Henry Steele Commager.-- (JOSEF ISRAELSII).



